

Ex. 2
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I claim:

1. A utility knife comprising:
 - a housing having two separable halves forming two sides, a top and a bottom;
 - a blade removably engaged within the housing and having a cutting edge, wherein the cutting edge extends from the bottom of the housing; and
 - a hook in each half of the housing;wherein the hook and the housing form a space having a first side, a second side and an apex, wherein the space and the hook may reversibly retain a measuring tape having a tab in a close and substantially parallel alignment to a surface to be cut, wherein the tape extends laterally from a side of the knife.
2. The utility knife of claim 1 wherein the blade is retractable.
3. The utility knife of claim 1 wherein the space further comprises an open end located on the bottom surface of the utility knife near the blade..
4. A means for simultaneous cutting and measuring comprising the steps of:
 - Grasping a utility knife comprising a blade and a housing, the housing having two sides and a hook in each side of the housing, each hook being adapted to receive a tape measure tab, wherein the hook is adapted to hold the tape measure in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut;
 - inserting the tab of a detachable extendable measuring tape comprising a ruler and a tab into the hook so that the measure is in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut;

extending the measuring tape a sufficient distance to measure the size of the surface to be cut; and

inserting the blade of the utility knife into the desired location on the surface to be cut; and

simultaneously pulling on both the tape measure and the utility knife while cutting with the utility knife so that the tape measure and the utility knife are substantially oppositely aligned with the ruler extending between them.

5. A utility knife comprising a blade and a housing, the housing having two sides and a hook in each side of the housing, each hook being adapted to receive a tape measure tab, wherein the hook is adapted to hold the tape measure in a position approximately parallel to the surface to be cut.

6. The utility knife of claim 4 wherein the blade is retractable.